

HONORING THE JOHN BASILONE  
MEMORIAL PARADE

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 3, 2011*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the organizers of the John Basilone Memorial Parade which takes place in Somerset County, New Jersey. This year they celebrate 30 years of remembrance for an American hero.

Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his valiant efforts at the Battle of Guadalcanal on October 24, 1942. After his 15-man unit was reduced to himself and two others by Japanese forces, Gunnery Sgt. Basilone took command of two sections of machine guns and bravely fought for 48 hours with his two fellow Marines. When ammunition became scarce, he battled through enemy grounds to gather more. And, by the end of the fight, the Japanese troops were nearly destroyed.

Upon his return to his hometown in the Borough of Raritan, New Jersey, Gunnery Sgt. Basilone was welcomed home with a parade held in his honor on September 21, 1943. The first parade was covered by both Life magazine and the Fox Movietone News. The Newsreel was then shown in movie theatres throughout the country.

Tragically, after requesting to return to the fleet, Gunnery Sgt. Basilone lost his life during the invasion of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. For his duty in Iwo Jima, Sgt. Basilone posthumously received the Navy Cross, becoming the only Marine enlisted in World War II to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross.

Sgt. Basilone's memory was not forgotten in his hometown, and in 1981, the John Basilone Memorial Parade began and is now in its 30th year. Every September, the Borough of Raritan and neighboring communities come together to not only remember our fallen war hero, but to honor our military and unite as a community. The John Basilone Parade is more than just a parade, it is an opportunity for Americans to come together and celebrate the freedoms we share and those who fight to protect them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the organizers of the John Basilone Memorial Parade for honoring not only one American hero, but all those who fight for our country.

IN HONOR OF MR. TIMOTHY  
DOWNING

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 3, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Timothy Downing who is being awarded the 2011 Cleveland Stonewall Democrats Leadership Award at the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats' Freedom Fund Reception on September 26, 2011.

The Cleveland Stonewall Democrats is one of more than ninety chapters of the National Stonewall Democrats throughout the country.

They are a grassroots movement devoted to securing equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Mr. Downing graduated with his undergraduate degree from Allegheny College in 1985 and earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1988 from Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University. He began his career in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the law firm of Rose, Schmidt, Hasley and Disalle. For the past 23 years Mr. Downing has been co-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Cleveland law firm Ulmer & Berne LLP, where he is also a partner. Mr. Downing is an active member of the American, Ohio State, and Cleveland Bar Associations' Labor & Employment Sections/Committees. He has also served as the chair of the Financial Committee for Ohio's Local Government Reform and Collaboration Commission for 18 months under former Governor Strickland. Mr. Downing has been recognized throughout his career; he was named a "Super Lawyer" by Cincinnati Law & Politics magazine and a "Leading Lawyer" by Inside Business magazine for the past 10 consecutive years.

In addition to his career, Mr. Downing is also an outspoken activist and advocate for the LGBT community. He founded Equality Ohio, an organization dedicated to "an Ohio where everyone feels home; living in families and communities where equality, diversity and inclusiveness are universally valued; and where government protects all people and responds to their needs, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression." Mr. Downing is currently the co-chair of the Board of Directors for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest LGBT civil rights and education organization.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Timothy Downing on the occasion of being honored with the 2011 Cleveland Stonewall Democrats Leadership Award.

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 3, 2011*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of Women Voters of Oakland, who are celebrating 100 years of women voting in California, starting with the historic and narrowly won California state referendum and the first California Civic League, Berkeley Forum led by Miss Blanche Morse in 1911. It is an immense honor to represent Bay Area communities who have truly been at the forefront of a century's worth of major achievements in social justice.

Over the years, the League of Women Voters of Oakland, as well as its sister leagues in Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, Piedmont and the surrounding Bay Area, have worked tirelessly to advocate, educate and champion citizens' informed and active participation in government and civic affairs.

An expansive and well-organized network of committed chapters, over 4,000 members in 21 local Leagues comprise the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area (LWVBA), which took shape in 1959. On a national

scale, the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) was founded during the 1920 convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, held just 6 months before the 19th amendment was ratified. Thus, after a 72-year struggle, the U.S. Constitution finally reflected what women in the Bay Area and California had fought to achieve a decade earlier.

As members of the League of Women Voters, you are part of a magnificent legacy. Additionally, you have pledged to continue to be the kind of bold pioneers and astute advocates who led us to this point. Therefore, I would like to thank you for your dedicated service in guiding and encouraging our community toward civic engagement.

Moreover, the League has flexed its power in shaping public policy through the strength of its grassroots organization and by maintaining its important stance of non-partisanship. For example, the Oakland chapter has been a major advocate for ranked choice voting, quality education and accessible housing. Likewise, the Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville chapter has worked extensively on advocating for fair housing and the promotion of social resources, including mental health, education, juvenile justice and senior services. And, the Piedmont chapter holds positions in the areas of social policy, diversity and natural resources, to name a few.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate you on this milestone and thank you for the invaluable service you provide to our community. I wish the League of Women Voters' local, state and national members all the best as you forge ahead toward another 100 years of protecting the rights of voters, promoting sound policy and creating a more just and peaceful world.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALBANY  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE'S 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 3, 2011*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the administration, faculty, students, alumni and supporters of Albany Technical College, as this institution celebrates 50 years of providing vocational and technical training to thousands of Georgia residents. This learning center commemorates its 50th anniversary on Friday, September 30, 2011, with a gala at the Phoebe Towers North in Albany, Georgia. This widely attended gala will enable local dignitaries, prospective students, past graduates and other individuals from southwest Georgia to pay tribute to an institution that has positively contributed to Albany, Georgia's economic development and mercantile maturation over the last half century.

Founded in 1961, Albany Tech was originally established as the Monroe Area Vocational-Technical School. Shortly thereafter, the Albany Area Vocational-Technical School was built, and in 1972 the two schools merged to form a comprehensive and thriving educational cooperative. In 1988, the school continued its ongoing transformational advancement